

TOP 10 REASONS NOT TO HOST AN UNDERAGE DRINKING PARTY:



1. YOU ARE BREAKING THE LAW.

It is against the Massachusetts social host law to supply alcohol to a person who is under the age of 21. This includes underage drinking that takes place on your property (with or without your consent).

2. JAIL TIME.

Violators of the law may be imprisoned up to 1 year.

3. MONEY.

The fine in Massachusetts can be up to \$2,000.

4. RISK OF ADDICTION.

Teens who start drinking before age 15 are five times* more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21.
*SAMHSA 2015

5. HARM.

Teens are at a greater risk of sexual assault or personal injury when under the influence of alcohol.

6. NOTORIETY.

A mother in North Andover, MA, was arrested on 50 counts of hosting an underage drinking party. She allegedly charged a \$5 admission fee.



AND...

7. MOST TEENAGERS DO NOT DRINK.

70% of Arlington teens did not drink alcohol in the past 30 days.

*Arlington YRBS 2013



8. MOST PARENTS DO NOT HOST PARTIES.

76% of AHS students report that they did not attend a house party where alcohol use was allowed in the last 12 months.

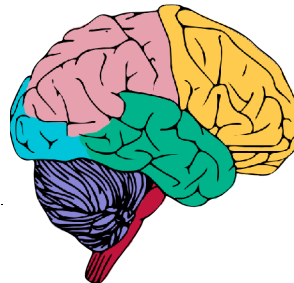
*Arlington YRBS 2013



9. SCIENTIFIC FACT.

Alcohol use during the teenage years changes the shape of the brain, which affects the frontal lobe (ability to think, pay attention, & make decisions) and the hippocampus (learning & memory).

This is irreversible.



10. THE EUROPEAN MYTH.

MYTH: Europeans learn to drink moderately & safely in a family setting.

TRUTH: Youth aged 15-16 from 35 European countries report higher teen binge-drinking rates than the U.S.

*ESPAD 2011

